

REMARKS

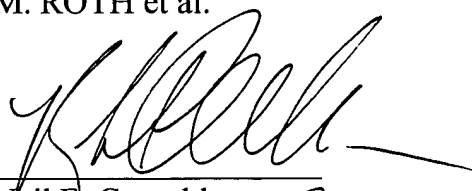
Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-12 will have been deleted, new claims 13-36 have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner, and the specification has been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been prepared to clarify the description of the invention and the claims, so that the disclosure and claims are presented in better form for U.S. patent prosecution. Further, Applicants note that the scope of the claims has not been narrowed for any reasons related to a basis of patentability, and, therefore, that no estoppel should attach.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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